

From: [Sanchez, Carlos](#)
To: [Shewmake, Kenneth](#); [Rauscher, Jon](#)
Cc: [Meyer, John](#); [Villarreal, Chris](#); [Miller, Gary](#)
Subject: RE: GAO Study on Superfund Sediment Sites - Meeting with Region 6
Date: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:22:40 PM
Attachments: [Star Lake GAO QUESTIONSFeb10.DOCX](#)

Ken/Jon,

Here are the draft responses for the Star Lake Canal site. Please provide input to all of the questions, especially question #7.

All help is appreciated. CAS

From: Meyer, John

Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 3:49 PM

To: Miller, Gary; Allen, Philip; Baumgarten, Gary; Casanova, Rafael; Sanchez, Carlos; Atkins, Blake; Villarreal, Chris; Banipal, Ben; Shewmake, Kenneth; Leos, Valmichael; Mueller, Brian; Rauscher, Jon; Turner, Philip

Subject: FW: GAO Study on Superfund Sediment Sites - Meeting with Region 6

All,

We need to prepare draft responses to the GAO questions we just received today for a call with GAO on 2/16. Carl would like to see draft responses COB Thursday (2/11) so I will need your input by COB Wednesday (2/10) or early Thursday. Yikes.

Here is the list of sediment sites that I came up with. I may have missed some, so let me know of others.

Patrick Bayou
Star Lake Canal
Lavaca Bay
Donna Reservoir
San Jacinto
Devils Swamp
Delta Shipyard
SBA Shipyard

I copied the questions below from the attachment. I am asking for input from a variety of resources, so check below for where we need input. Please reply directly back to me with your input. Thanks.

Superfund Sediment Site Questions for Region 6

GAO 100205

1. Please provide a brief description of the region's sediment sites. At what stage are these sites in the remedial response process? **[EACH RPM TO RESPOND. NEED VERY SHORT]**



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DESCRIPTION, AND IDENTIFY WHAT STAGE IN PROCESS]

2. What is the region's role in managing the Superfund remedial response process for sites with contaminated sediment? [6SF-R]
3. How does the region coordinate with EPA HQ during the remedial response process for sites with contaminated sediment? [WOULD LIKE RPM AND RISK ASSESSOR INPUT]
 - a. How does this coordination help or hinder decision making during the remedial response process, especially during remedy selection for a specific site? [WOULD LIKE RPM AND RISK ASSESSOR INPUT]
4. How does the region coordinate and work with the cleanup-lead (e.g., a State agency, Federal agency, or Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)) during the remedial response process?
5. What are the key EPA policies or guidance relied upon by the region when managing contaminated sediment risks at Superfund sites? [WOULD LIKE RPM AND RISK ASSESSOR INPUT]
 - a. What is your opinion of these policies and guidance? [WOULD LIKE RPM AND RISK ASSESSOR INPUT]
 - b. What challenges, if any, has the region experienced in implementing these policies and guidance on Superfund sediment sites? How could these challenges be addressed? [WOULD LIKE RPM AND RISK ASSESSOR INPUT]
6. What steps does the region take to ensure that these policies and guidance are being considered and implemented in the remedial response process for Superfund sites with contaminated sediment? [WOULD LIKE RPM AND RISK ASSESSOR INPUT]
7. Please describe the process used by the region for considering and responding to comments provided by EPA's Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (OSRTI) for Tier 1 sites (those sites with more than 10,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment or 5 acres). [WOULD LIKE RPM AND RISK ASSESSOR INPUT]
 - a. What is the region's opinion on OSRTI's review of the Consideration Memo (including the type of comments they give)? [WOULD LIKE RPM AND RISK ASSESSOR INPUT]
 - b. What challenges, if any, has the region experienced in the Tier 1 review process? [WOULD LIKE RPM AND RISK ASSESSOR INPUT]
 - c. How, if at all, could the Tier 1 review process be improved? [WOULD LIKE RPM AND RISK ASSESSOR INPUT]
8. What challenges, if any, does the region face in managing cleanups of Superfund sediment sites from both a regional and agency-wide perspective? What opportunities, if any, exist to address these challenges? [6SF-R]
9. Please provide a few examples of Superfund sediment sites that present challenges for the region. What attributes have made these sites challenging? [WOULD LIKE RPM AND RISK ASSESSOR INPUT]
10. Please provide a few examples of Superfund sediment sites in the region that are "success stories". What attributes have made these sites successful? [WOULD LIKE RPM AND RISK ASSESSOR INPUT]

John C Meyer
Remedial Branch Chief
Superfund Division
214.665.6742



From: Edlund, Carl

Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 1:33 PM

To: Meyer, John; Gray, David; Honker, William; Phillips, Pam; Baumgarten, Gary; Garcia, David; Peycke, Mark; Dwyer, Stacey; Kaspar, Paul; Martindale, Cary

Subject: FW: GAO Study on Superfund Sediment Sites - Meeting with Region 6

FYI ...these are GAO's questions ...do we have answers??

From: Ryan, Emily M [<mailto:RyanE@gao.gov>]

Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 12:24 PM

To: Edlund, Carl; Carroll, Gregory P

Subject: RE: GAO Study on Superfund Sediment Sites - Meeting with Region 6

Hi Carl,

Please see the attached discussion questions for our meeting on the 16th.

Thanks,

Emily

From: Edlund, Carl [<mailto:Edlund.Carl@epa.gov>]

Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 6:24 PM

To: Ryan, Emily M; Carroll, Gregory P; Hollingsworth, Kevin

Subject: RE: GAO Study on Superfund Sediment Sites - Meeting with Region 6

Thanks ..I'll set up a call in number. Also, if you would send us the questions that you have by Thursday February 11, we could be able to discuss answers in the call.

From: Ryan, Emily M [<mailto:RyanE@gao.gov>]

Sent: Friday, February 05, 2016 11:49 AM

To: Edlund, Carl

Cc: Carroll, Gregory P; Hollingsworth, Kevin

Subject: RE: GAO Study on Superfund Sediment Sites - Meeting with Region 6

Hi Carl,

Thank you for your message – I'm also glad that this email reached you! Yes, that time works for us. I will provide discussion questions in advance. Do you need us to provide a call-in number? Or please provide a direct number where we can reach you.

Thanks and take care,

Emily

From: Edlund, Carl [<mailto:Edlund.Carl@epa.gov>]

Sent: Friday, February 05, 2016 12:19 PM
To: Ryan, Emily M
Cc: Carroll, Gregory P; Hollingsworth, Kevin
Subject: Re: GAO Study on Superfund Sediment Sites - Meeting with Region 6

I'm glad that I received this (my last name is EdlUnd). How about 2:00 - 3:30 on Tuesday February 16?

Sent from my iPad

On Feb 4, 2016, at 2:11 PM, Ryan, Emily M <RyanE@gao.gov> wrote:

Dear Mr. Edland,

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) is conducting a study on Superfund sediment sites at the request of the Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works. As part of this work, we are speaking with officials from all 10 EPA Regions to discuss the coordination of remedy selection for these sites within EPA; sediment policies and guidance relied on by the Regions in the remedial response process; and any challenges faced by the region in managing Superfund sediment sites. In addition, you may be aware that we recently requested information on specific Tier 1 sediment sites in Region 6 through EPA's Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (OSRTI) for the purpose of reviewing individual sites in more detail. After reviewing this information we have determined that no Tier 1 sites from Region 6 will be included in our analysis of individual sites because the Record of Decisions' for these sites were signed prior to fiscal year 2006. However, we still would like to schedule a phone meeting with Regional officials to discuss your overall approach to managing Superfund sediment sites. I have listed some suggested dates and time windows below for this meeting (we typically like to set aside 60-75 minutes for these conversations), but if these do not work for Regional officials, please feel free to propose other dates or times:

- Wednesday, February 10, 12:00-4:00 pm CST
- Thursday, February 11, 8:30-11:00 am CST
- Tuesday, February 16, 8:30 am – 4:00 pm CST

Please let me know if you have any questions about this request, or if there is someone else that I should contact in Region 6 to schedule this meeting. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,
Emily

Emily M. Ryan
Senior Analyst, Natural Resources and Environment
US Government Accountability Office
(202) 512-8554

ryane@gao.gov